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# South Valley Healthy Communities Collaborative nabs \$500K

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Four organizations in the South Valley received a \$500,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to address community issues.

The South Valley Healthy Communities Collaborative is a collaboration of La Plazita Institute, Casa de Salud, Peanut Butter & Jelly Family Services and the Rio Grande Community Development Corp. (RGCDC).

The group was initially formed in 2009 through the Pathways for a Healthier Bernalillo County program, a partnership between Bernalillo County and University of New Mexico Hospital.

"With our collective experience and collaborative approach, this funding will help us stabilize and expand our individual programs in a way that will have a significant impact on this community," said **Tony Gallegos**, RGCDC executive director.

RGCDC runs the **South Valley Economic Development Center**, a business incubator with a commercial kitchen.

The mission of the collaborative is to remove barriers to health care, culture and history, racial healing and education, and strengthen Albuquerque's South Valley.

"We're small agencies that don't traditionally get funded by big organizations," said **Tim Nisly**, chief operating officer with RGCDC. "They [Kellogg] wanted to work with small agencies that have a track record of getting things done efficiently."

Peanut Butter & Jelly has provided support to children and families for 39 years. **Susannah Burke**, executive director, said the organization will use the funds to demonstrate the effectiveness of its programs in supporting the development of children.

Casa de Salud will improve access to health care and increase the organization's capacity to provide low-cost health care in the community.

La Plazita will increase its culturally sensitive assistance to families and youth who often fall through the cracks of conventional institutional support.